



# ABOUT CFBNJ

The Community FoodBank of New Jersey (CFBNJ) is the largest anti-hunger, anti-poverty organization in the state, where nearly 1.1 million neighbors, including 1 in 7 children, struggle with the emptiness caused by hunger. We are the lead source of nourishing food for 800 pantries serving everyone from infants to college students to families and seniors. Our comprehensive approach addresses the root causes of hunger through food benefits and social services, job training and certification, local farm partnerships, and food policies that nurture all New Jerseyans. By providing food, help, and hope, we are building a food secure future for New Jersey. CFBNJ is a proud member of Feeding America®.

# WHY VOTING MATTERS



Voting lets people choose leaders and help make rules that affect everyday life. When you vote, you make your community better and ensure that your voice is heard. One way we can help people who are facing food insecurity is by voting for leaders who care about hunger and want to fix it. Long-term policy solutions can support food programs, make healthy food easier to get, and assist families who are struggling. Food insecurity is just one example of an issue that you can help address by voting. When you vote, you make your voice heard about what matters most to you and choose leaders who will stand up for your needs.

# WHO DOES WHAT IN GOVERNMENT



## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The President: Is elected to lead the country. They sign national laws, lead the military, and make decisions that affect the whole nation.

The Vice President: Helps the President and takes over if the President cannot serve. They also support national decisions.

Congress: Makes national laws. It has two parts:

- House of Representatives: Members are elected every 2 years and represent small areas called districts. They help make national laws and vote on bills.
- Senate: Senators are elected every 6 years. Each state has 2. They help make national laws, approve budgets, and vote on important issues.

# WHO DOES WHAT IN GOVERNMENT



## STATE GOVERNMENT

The Governor: Is elected to lead the state. They sign state laws and make decisions that affect everyone in the state.

General Assembly: Members are elected every 2 years to represent districts in the state and help make and vote on state laws.

State Senators: Elected every 4 years. They represent districts and help create and vote on state laws.

# WHO DOES WHAT IN GOVERNMENT



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

County Executive: The County Executive is elected to lead the county government. They run county departments and make sure services like roads, health programs, and emergency services are working properly. They also help plan the county's budget and suggest new ideas to improve life for everyone in the county.

County Commissioners: County Commissioners are elected to help run the county. They manage services like jails, health programs, and community colleges. They also help decide how county money is spent.

# WHO DOES WHAT IN GOVERNMENT



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Mayor: The mayor is elected to lead a town or city. They oversee local departments like police and public works and help make and enforce local laws called ordinances.

Municipal Council Members: Municipal Council Members are elected to help make decisions for a town or city. They work with the mayor to pass local laws, approve budgets, and make sure services like parks, housing, and schools are working well.

# VOTING CHECKLIST



Make sure you are registered to vote.



Learn about the candidates and what they stand for.



Decide how you want to vote: by mail, early in person, or on election day.



Find your polling place if voting in person.



Vote and make your voice heard!



# VOTING FAQ



## **Q: How do I know if I'm registered to vote?**

A: You can check your registration status online at <https://nj.gov/state/elections/vote.shtml>

## **Q: What do I need to register to vote?**

A: You must be:

- A U.S. citizen
- At least 18 years old by election day
- Living in your county for at least 30 days before the election
- A valid ID like a driver's license or the last 4 digits of your Social Security number.

## **Q: Can I vote if I was formerly incarcerated?**

A: Yes! In New Jersey, you can vote as long as you are not currently serving a sentence in prison.

## **Q: How do I find my polling place?**

A: Visit <https://nj.gov/state/elections/vote.shtml> and enter your address to find your polling location.

# VOTING FAQ



## **Q: What if I moved recently?**

A: A: You need to update your voter registration with your new address. You can do this online or by submitting a paper form.

## **Q: What are the ways I can vote?**

A: You can:

- Vote by mail
- Vote early in person
- Vote in person on election day

## **Q: Do I need to bring ID to vote?**

A: Most voters do not need to show ID at the polls, but it's a good idea to bring one just in case.

# THE TRUTH ABOUT VOTING



## **Myth: My vote doesn't count.**

Fact: Every vote matters! Especially in local and state elections, where outcomes can be decided by just a few votes. Your vote helps shape your community.

## **Myth: Only presidential elections are important.**

Fact: Local and state elections affect schools, housing, healthcare, and food programs. These decisions often impact your daily life more than national ones.

## **Myth: Voting is too complicated.**

Fact: Voting is easier than ever. You can vote by mail, early in person, or on election day. There are resources to help you every step of the way.

## **Myth: I don't know enough to vote.**

Fact: You don't need to be an expert. Just learn about the candidates and issues that matter to you. Even voting for one race or issue makes a difference.

# HELPFUL RESOURCES



**Learn about candidates:** <https://ballotpedia.org>

**General voting info:**

<https://nj.gov/state/elections/vote.shtml>

**Ways to vote:** <https://nj.gov/state/elections/vote-3-ways-to-vote.shtml>

**Vote by mail info:** <https://nj.gov/state/elections/vote-by-mail.shtml>

**Find your polling place:**

<https://nj.gov/state/elections/vote-polling-location.shtml>

**Register to vote:** <https://nj.gov/state/elections/voter-registration.shtml>